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PATENT APPLICATION

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE



re application of

Docket No: Q78244

Takamichi KUDO

Appln. No.: 10/696,569

Group Art Unit: 2874

Confirmation No.: 5905

Examiner: Not Yet Assigned

Filed: October 30, 2003

For: OPTICAL CONNECTOR

STATEMENT UNDER 37 C.F.R. § 1.97(e)

Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

The undersigned hereby states, upon information and belief:

That each item of information contained in the Information Disclosure Statement filed concurrently herewith was first cited in any communication from a foreign patent office in a counterpart foreign application not more than three months prior to the filing of said Information Disclosure Statement.

Respectfully submitted,

Darryl Mexic

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WASHINGTON OFFICE
23373
CUSTOMER NUMBER

Date: May 7, 2004

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INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT
UNDER 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.97 and 1.98

Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

In accordance with the duty of disclosure under 37 C.F.R. § 1.56, Applicant hereby notifies the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office of the documents which are listed on the attached PTO/SB/08 A & B (modified) form and/or listed herein and which the Examiner may deem material to patentability of the claims of the above-identified application.

One copy of each of the listed documents, other than any U.S. patents and patent publications, is submitted herewith. Also, enclosed is a British Office Action in a corresponding British Patent Application, citing the references enclosed with this IDS.

The present Information Disclosure Statement is being filed: (1) No later than three months from the application's filing date; (2) Before the mailing date of the first Office Action on the merits (whichever is later); or (3) Before the mailing date of the first Office Action after filing a request for continued examination (RCE) under §1.114, and therefore, no Statement under 37 C.F.R. § 1.97(e) or



INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT
U.S. Appln. No.: 10/696,569
Attorney Docket No.: Q78244

fee under 37 C.F.R. § 1.17(p) is required. Nevertheless, since a statement can be made, a statement is submitted herewith.

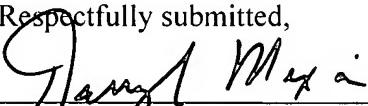
In compliance with the concise explanation requirement under 37 C.F.R. § 1.98(a)(3) for foreign language documents, Applicant encloses herewith a copy of a Communication from a foreign patent office in a counterpart application citing such documents, together with an English-language version (if not already included) of at least that portion of the Communication indicating the degree of relevance found by the foreign patent office. *Also, the submission of the attached English language abstracts along with Japanese Patent Laid-open Publication Nos. 2000-329972 and 9-5579 constitute concise statements of relevance of the respective references.*

The submission of the listed documents is not intended as an admission that any such document constitutes prior art against the claims of the present application. Applicant does not waive any right to take any action that would be appropriate to antedate or otherwise remove any listed document as a competent reference against the claims of the present application.

The USPTO is directed and authorized to charge all required fees, except for the Issue Fee and the Publication Fee, to Deposit Account No. 19-4880. Please also credit any overpayments to said Deposit Account. A duplicate copy of this paper is attached.

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Date: May 7, 2004

Substitute for Form 1449 A & B/PTO		<i>Complete if Known</i>	
<u>INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT BY APPLICANT</u>		Application Number	10/696,569
		Confirmation Number	5905
		Filing Date	October 30, 2003
		First Named Inventor	Takamichi KUDO
		Art Unit	2874
		Examiner Name	Not Yet Assigned
		Attorney Docket Number	Q78244
Sheet	1	of	1

Examiner Signature _____ **Date Considered** _____

*EXAMINER: Initial if reference considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609. Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant.

¹Applicant's unique citation designation number (optional). ²See Kind Codes of USPTO Patent Documents at www.uspto.gov, MPEP 901.04 or in the comment box of this document. ³ Enter Office that issued the document, by the two-letter code (WIPO Standard ST. 3). ⁴For Japanese patent documents, the indication of the year of the reign of the Emperor must precede the serial number of the patent document. ⁵Kind of document by the appropriate symbols as indicated on the document under WIPO Standard ST. 16 if possible. ⁶Applicant is to indicate here if English language Translation is attached.